

I claim:

1 1. A method for searching an electronic program guide comprising:
2 displaying a schedule for a first program, from a program data having the
3 program's schedule and a description of the program's content;
4 displaying a plurality of search elements derived from the description of the first
5 program;
6 selecting at least one of the plurality of search elements; and
7 finding at least one of a plurality of programs similar to the first program, the found
8 program having at least one of a plurality of second search elements derived from the
9 description of the second program that matches the selected search element.

1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 displaying the found programs most similar to the first program before the found
3 programs least similar to the first program, wherein the found programs most similar to
4 the first program have the greatest number of search element matches.

1 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising:
2 displaying a plurality of search parameters derived from the schedule of the first
3 program;
4 selecting at least one of the plurality of search parameters; and
5 displaying the found programs most within the search parameters before the found
6 programs least within the search parameters.

1 4. The method of claim 3 further comprising:

2 specifying an element weight associated with a selected search element, wherein
3 the found programs most similar to the first program have the greatest number of search
4 element matches having the greatest weight.

1 5. The method of claim 4 further comprising:

2 specifying a parameter weight associated with a selected search parameter,
3 wherein the found programs most within the search parameters are the found programs
4 most within the search parameters having the greatest weight.

1 6. The method of claim 4, wherein the element weight is a discrete value specified
2 via an input device.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the discrete value is selected from a range of
2 values displayed as a continuum.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the range of values displayed as a continuum is a
2 slider graphic.

1 9. The method of claim 6, wherein the discrete value is selected using a keypad.

1 10. The method of claim 6, wherein the discrete value is selected using a slider
2 mechanism on a remote control device.

1 11. The method of claim 5, wherein the parameter weight is a second discrete value
2 specified via an input device.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the second discrete value is selected from a
2 second range of values displayed as a continuum.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the second range of values displayed as a
2 continuum is a slider graphic.

1 14. The method of claim 11, wherein the second discrete value is selected using a
2 keypad.

1 15. The method of claim 11, wherein the second discrete value is selected using a
2 slider mechanism on a remote control device.

1 16. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of search elements is selected from
2 the group consisting of a program title, an actor, a director, and a genre.

1 17. The method of claim 3, wherein the plurality of search parameters is selected from
2 the group consisting of a show time and a channel.

1 18. An apparatus for searching an electronic program guide comprising:
1 a first display of a schedule for a first program from a program data having the
2 program's schedule and a description of the program's content;
3 a second display, associated with the first display, of a plurality of search elements
4 derived from the description of the first program;
5 a selector, coupled to the second display, to select at least one of the displayed
6 search elements; and
7 a search logic, coupled to the selector, to find at least one of a plurality of
8 programs similar to the first program, the found program having at least one of a plurality

9 of second search elements derived from the description of the second program that
10 match the selected search element.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 18 further comprising:
2 a results display, associated with the second display, of the found programs most
3 similar to the first program before the found programs least similar to the first program,
4 wherein the found programs most similar to the first program have the greatest number of
5 search element matches.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 19 further comprising:
2 the second display further comprising of a plurality of search parameters derived
3 from the schedule of the first program;
4 a second selector, coupled to the second display, to select at least one of the
5 plurality of search parameters; and
6 the results display, further comprising the found programs most within the search
7 parameters before the found programs least within the search parameters.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 20 further comprising:
2 an element weight associated with a selected search element, wherein the found
3 programs most similar to the first program have the greatest number of search element
4 matches having the greatest weight.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising:
2 a parameter weight associated with a selected search parameter, wherein the
3 found programs most within the search parameters are the found programs most within
4 the search parameters having the greatest weight.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the element weight is a discrete value
2 specified via an input device.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the discrete value is selected from a range of
2 values displayed as a continuum.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the range of values displayed as a continuum
2 is a slider graphic.

1 26. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the discrete value is selected using a keypad.

1 27. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the discrete value is selected using a slider
2 mechanism on a remote control device.

1 28. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the parameter weight is a second discrete
2 value specified via an input device.

1 29. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the second discrete value is selected from a
2 second range of values displayed as a continuum.

1 30. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the second range of values displayed as a
2 continuum is a slider graphic.

1 31. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the second discrete value is selected using a
2 keypad.

1 32. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the second discrete value is selected using a
2 slider mechanism on a remote control device.

1 33. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the plurality of search elements is selected
2 from the group consisting of a program title, an actor, a director, and a genre.

1 34. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the plurality of search parameters is selected
2 from the group consisting of a show time and a channel.

1 35. An apparatus comprising:
2 a machine-accessible medium including instructions that, when executed by a
3 machine, cause the machine to perform:
4 displaying a schedule for a first program, from a program data having the
5 program's schedule and a description of the program's content;
6 displaying a plurality of search elements derived from the description of the first
7 program;
8 selecting at least one of the plurality of search elements; and
9 finding at least one of a plurality of programs similar to the first program, the found
10 program having at least one of a plurality of second search elements derived from the
11 description of the second program that matches the selected search element.

1 36. The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the instructions cause the machine to further
2 perform:
3 displaying the found programs most similar to the first program before the found
4 programs least similar to the first program, wherein the found programs most similar to
5 the first program have the greatest number of search element matches.

1 37. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the instructions cause the machine to further
2 perform:

3 displaying a plurality of search parameters derived from the schedule of the first
4 program;

5 selecting at least one of the plurality of search parameters; and

6 displaying the found programs most within the search parameters before the found
7 programs least within the search parameters.

1 38. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the instructions cause the machine to further
2 perform:

3 specifying an element weight associated with a selected search element, wherein
4 the found programs most similar to the first program have the greatest number of search
5 element matches having the greatest weight.

1 39. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the instructions cause the machine to further
2 perform:

3 specifying a parameter weight associated with a selected search parameter,
4 wherein the found programs most within the search parameters are the found programs
5 most within the search parameters having the greatest weight.

1 40. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the element weight is a discrete value
2 specified via an input device.

1 41. The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the discrete value is selected from a range of
2 values displayed as a continuum.

1 42. The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the range of values displayed as a continuum
2 is a slider graphic.

1 43. The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the discrete value is selected using a keypad.

1 44. The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the discrete value is selected using a slider
2 mechanism on a remote control device.

1 45. The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the parameter weight is a second discrete
2 value specified via an input device.

1 46. The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the second discrete value is selected from a
2 second range of values displayed as a continuum.

1 47. The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the second range of values displayed as a
2 continuum is a slider graphic.

1 48. The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the second discrete value is selected using a
2 keypad.

1 49. The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the second discrete value is selected using a
2 slider mechanism on a remote control device.

1 50. The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the plurality of search elements is selected
2 from the group consisting of a program title, an actor, a director, and a genre.

- 1 51. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the plurality of search parameters is selected
- 2 from the group consisting of a show time and a channel.